committee of secretaries and ultimately, the price that has been fixed by Government is less than that recommended by the Kelkar Committee. The details of the pricing are given in the main answer. The criteria for consumer price is that it should be equated with the input price of the cheapest liquid hydrocarbon namely fuel oil.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be surprised to know that the price which has been fixed by the Kelkar Commission is including the shipment charge. If the gas is imported, the shipment charge is also included in that price. But the gas is produced in India. It is not imported. Then, how can we include the shipment charge also while fixing the price of the gas?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the Kelkar Commission has examined both the import cost as well as the indigenous cost and have arrived at an equated price taking all these factors into consideration.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: How can you add the shipment charge when you are not importing it? When gas is produced in this country, how are you adding the price of imported gas?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the Kelkar Commission have examined the cost of production indigenously as well as the cost for imports and also the prices in other countries. All these factors have been taken into consideration in arriving at the recommendations. The shipment price is not included. The criteria they have used is the opportunity cost of gas. That is why this was mentioned.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: What about the shipment charge? How can you add the shipment charge?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I have answered that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says, "he has not included it".

Requirement of Natural Gas

*208. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total requirement of natural gas;

(b) the gap between demand and supply thereof;

(c) what steps Government are taking to meet the demand;

(d) whether any time-bound plan for distribution of natural gas has been chalked out; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Against a demand of over 240 MMSCMD registered with GAIL, exclusive of allocations of around 92 MMSCMD already made, the supply potential by 1996-97 would be in the region of 80 MMSCMD.

(c) to (e) A number of oil and gas development projects have been taken up to augment the production of gas, as well as some projects for transportation and distribution of natural gas.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, from the Minister's reply, it is clear that the demand is far more than the anticipated supply as the things are on paper today. As the Minister knows, the natural gas is now a very important resource not only for fertilizer production but for power generation and for a whole stream of downstream petro-chemicals. I want to know from the Government whether there is an overall natural gas policy, as a part of the energy policy, because petroleum, oil and gas, are all under one Ministry. Of course, coal is under a different Ministry. Has the Government prepared a total policy framework in which we know for the next five or ten years, what would be the total gas available and how we can use the gas in an optimal manner. Related with this is the question of gas pricing for which I will put a separate question because fertilizer subsidy is engaging the attention of the country and unless gas pricing

becomes rational, fertilizer prices cannot come down. Has the Ministry got an overall policy already ready or is it under formulation?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the Government has already a policy framework. The present production of gas is about 48 million cubic metres per day of which 11 million cubic metres are being flared. One of the objectives is to reduce flaring to zero. For that a Rs. 7200 crores project has already been initiated with the aid of the World Bank. Several oil and gas development projects including Neelam, Mufta, Ravva etc. with an overall investment of about Rs. 7500 crores have already been sanctioned or are in the pipeline. When these projects are implemented gas production will be raised to 80 million cubic metres per day. As of now 92 million cubic metres of gas per day stands committed including the in-principle commitments. The Government have a policy of enhancing the production, reducing the gas flaring to zero as well as streamlining the allocation including the allocation for downstream projects, synchronising the establishment of the downstream projects so that the gas which is a very important resource of the country is optimally utilised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ownership Right to Refugees in Evacuee Properties

*206. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that refugees, who came to Punjab in a wake of the partition of the country and were permitted to occupy the vacant houses belonging to those who migrated to Pakistan, have not so far been given the ownership of the houses, with the result that the ownership still lies with the Punjab Wakf Board and the rent thereof is required to be paid to the Board;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Board increases the rent of such properties frequently; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to mitigate the hardship of the occupants of such houses so that they are not exploited by the Board?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) In terms of Section 11(1) of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950, evacuee Wakf properties vest in the Punjab Wakf Board. A displaced person occupying such property as tenant would have the same position as any other tenant *vis-a-vis* the Wakf Board and the question of Government intervention does not arise.

हल्दिया तथा कोचीन में पोत-कारखाने

*209. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या **जल-भूतल परिवहन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एशियाई विकास बैंक ने हल्दिया तथा कोचीन में पोत-कारखाने स्थापित किये जाने की सिफारिशें की हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई योजना बनाई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर): (क) जी, नहीं। एशियाई विकास बैंक के परामर्शदाताओं ने अपनी प्रारूप रिपोर्ट में यह सुझाव दिया है कि हल्दिया और कोचीन में जहाज मरम्मत सुविधाएं स्थापित की जाएं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Proposals for Conversion of Metre Gauge lines in Western Railway

*210. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals for conversion of several Metre Gauge Lines into Broad Gauge lines in Western and other Railway regions;

(b) the details of those proposals which have been found acceptable; and

(c) the proposals which have not been found acceptable with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) A large number of proposals have been received for conversion of Metre Gauge lines to Broad Gauge all over the